

U.S. Embassy Freetown, Sierra Leone
Security Message for U.S. Citizens – Upcoming Election security
October 2, 2012

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens that as the November 17 election date nears, an increase in political demonstrations, rallies, large boisterous crowds, and possibly even protests is likely. You may have noticed the increasing size of crowds near the President's residence on Regent Road near Hill Cot Junction, especially in the evening hours. You will likely see similar crowds on the corner of Old Railway Line and Hannah Benka Coker Street, where the APC Headquarters are located and also near the SLPP Headquarters on Lightfoot Boston Street. Most of the time these crowds are jovial and excited and not looking for violence. However, in order to avoid delays and congestion, you may wish to avoid driving in these areas, and take alternate routes whenever possible.

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

In places that you cannot avoid (such as passing the President's house on Regent Road), please be cautious and remember the following security tips:

1. Keep your doors locked and your windows rolled up.
2. Do not leave valuables sitting in plain view. Put them in the trunk or on the floor of your car.
3. Leave enough stopping distance between you and the vehicle in front of you-giving yourself an escape route should you wish to turn around.
4. If you feel trapped, threatened, or the crowd becomes violent and you are unable to leave the area, stay in your locked vehicle and call for assistance.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the [U.S. Embassy Freetown](#) web site. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's, [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#) where you can find the current [Worldwide Caution](#), Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and [Country Specific Information](#). Current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States or a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444 for callers from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Sierra Leone, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during

enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy is located at Leicester Square, Regent, in Freetown, and the telephone number is +232 (76) 515-000 or 076-515-000. For emergencies including cases involving serious illness or injury, death, and victims of serious crime, the ACS Unit is available 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. For emergencies after hours, please call +232 (76) 515-000 or 076-515-000.